



Supreme Court strikes down Trump-era ban on rapid-fire rifle bump stocks, reopening political fight

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Friday struck down a Trump-era ban on bump stocks, the rapid-fire gun accessories used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, in a ruling that threw firearms back into the nation's political spotlight.

The high court's conservative majority found that the Trump administration overstepped when it changed course from predecessors and banned bump stocks, which allow a rate of fire comparable to machine guns. The decision came after a gunman in Las Vegas attacked a country music festival with assault rifles equipped with the accessories.

The gunman fired more than 1,000 rounds into the crowd in 11 minutes, sending thousands of people fleeing in terror as hundreds were wounded and dozens killed.



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A bump stock is displayed in Harrisonburg, Va., on March 15, 2019.

Associated Press
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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

| SUNDAY: | MONDAY: | TUESDAY: | WEDNESDAY: | THURSDAY: | FRIDAY: | SATURDAY: |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm | ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm | JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm | EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm | MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm | RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm | EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm |
| WATER'S EDGE RESTAURANT & BAR | | | | Happy Hour 12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10 | | ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm |
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Supreme Court strikes down Trump-era ban on rapid-fire rifle bump stocks, reopening political fight

Continued from Front

The ruling thrust guns back into the center of the political conversation with an unusual twist as Democrats decried the reversal of a GOP administration's action and many Republicans backed the ruling.

The 6-3 majority opinion written by Justice Clarence Thomas found the Justice Department was wrong to declare that bump stocks transformed semiautomatic rifles into illegal machine guns because, he wrote, each trigger depression in rapid succession still only releases one shot.

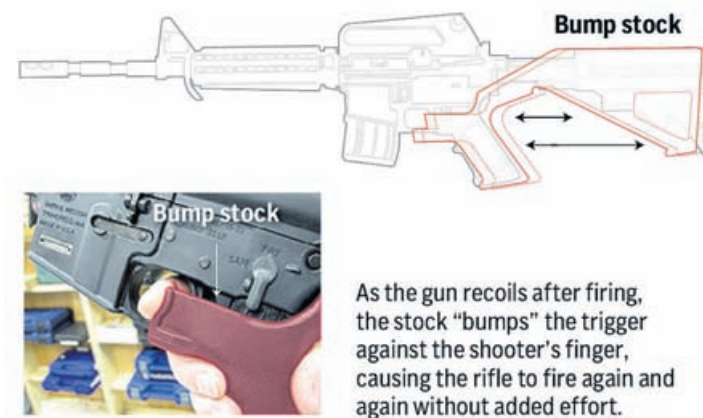
The ruling reinforced the limits of executive reach and two justices — conservative Samuel Alito and liberal Sonia Sotomayor — separately highlighted how action in Congress could potentially provide a more lasting policy, if there was political will to act in a bipartisan fashion.

Originally, imposing a ban through regulation rather than legislation during Donald Trump's presidency took pressure off Republicans to act following the massacre and another mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida. Prospects for passing gun restrictions in the current divided Congress are dim.

President Joe Biden, who supports gun restrictions,

Bump stocks allow rapid fire from rifle

The replacement stock allows an AR- or AK-style rifle to shoot at a rate of up to 800 rounds a minute, mimicking automatic fire.



The Supreme Court ruled Friday that a rifle fitted with a rapid-fire accessory known as a bump stock is not an illegal machine gun.

called on Congress to reinstate the ban imposed under his political foe. Trump's campaign team meanwhile, expressed respect for the ruling before quickly pivoting to his endorsement by the National Rifle Association.

As Trump courts gun owners while running to retake the presidency, he has appeared to play down his own administration's actions on bump stocks, telling NRA members in February that "nothing happened" on guns during his presidency despite "great pressure." He told the group that if he is elected again, "No one will lay a finger on your firearms."

The 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas was carried out by a high-stakes gambler who killed himself, leaving his exact motive a mystery. A total of 60 people were killed in the shooting, including Christiana Duarte, whose family called Friday's ruling tragic.

"The ruling is really just another way of inviting people to have another mass shooting," said Danette Meyers, a family friend and spokesperson. "It's unfortunate that they have to relive this again. They're really unhappy."

The opinion comes after the same Supreme Court conservative supermajority handed down a landmark

decision expanding gun rights in 2022. The high court is also expected to rule in another gun case in the coming weeks, challenging a federal law intended to keep guns away from people under domestic violence restraining orders. The arguments in the bump stock case, though, were less about Second Amendment rights and more about whether the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, a Justice Department agency, had overstepped its authority.

Bump stocks are accessories that replace a rifle's stock, the part that rests against the shoulder. Invented in the 2000s, they harness the gun's recoil energy so that the trigger bumps against the shooter's stationary finger, allowing the gun to fire at a similar speed as an automatic weapon.

The Supreme Court majority found that the 1934 law against machine guns defined them as weapons that could automatically fire more than one shot by a single function of the trigger. Bump stocks don't fit that definition because "the trigger must still be released and reengaged to fire each additional shot," Thomas wrote. He also pointed to over a decade of ATF's findings that claimed bump

stocks weren't automatic weapons.

The plaintiff, Texas gun shop owner and military veteran Michael Cargill, applauded the ruling in a video posted online, predicting the case would have ripple effects by hampering other ATF gun restrictions. "I'm glad I stood up and fought," he said.

In a dissent joined by her liberal colleagues, Justice Sotomayor said that bump stocks fit under the ordinary meaning of the law: "When I see a bird that walks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, I call that bird a duck," she wrote. The ruling, she said, could hamstring the ATF and have "deadly consequences."

ATF Director Steve Dettelbach echoed the sentiment, saying that bump stocks "pose an unacceptable level of risk to public safety."

The high court took up the case after a split among lower courts. Under Republican President George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama, the ATF decided that bump stocks didn't transform semiautomatic weapons into machine guns. The agency reversed those decisions at Trump's urging. That was after the Las Vegas massacre and the Parkland, Florida shooting that left 17 dead. □



The cover of a U.S. Passport is displayed in Tigard, Ore., Dec. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

Ready to renew your U.S. passport? You can now apply online

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's an easier way to renew your passport — online.

The State Department has opened a trial run allowing a limited number of people to apply for their updated travel documents with a few clicks. You can't just start anytime — windows will open at midday Eastern time each day and then close once the system has reached its daily limit.

The department says it's taking it slow so it can moni-

tor how the system is working. There are also a series of requirements to meet to be able to apply online, including:

- You're 25 or older.
- You're renewing a passport issued between 2009 and 2015.
- You aren't changing any personal information.
- You won't travel overseas for at least eight weeks after you apply.

There are plenty of other criteria on the State Department's travel website,

where you have to create an account to renew online. Expedited service still has to be done by mail.

It comes after travelers faced massive wait times to renew their documents amid a backlog blamed on lingering pandemic effects like staffing shortages and a pause in online processing last year that flooded the agency with applications.

Current processing time for a routine passport renewal is six to eight weeks. □

Justice Department won't prosecute Garland for contempt, says refusal to provide audio wasn't crime

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Merrick Garland will not be prosecuted for contempt of Congress because his refusal to turn over audio of President Joe Biden's interview in his classified documents case "did not constitute a crime," the Justice Department said Friday.

The department's decision was revealed in a letter to Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, citing the agency's "longstanding position and uniform practice" to not prosecute officials who don't comply with subpoenas because of a president's claim of executive privilege.

The Democratic president last month asserted executive privilege to block the release of the audio, which the White House says Republicans want only for political purposes. Republicans moved forward with the contempt effort anyway, voting Wednesday to punish Garland for refusing to provide the recording.

Assistant Attorney General Carlos Felipe Uriarte noted that the Justice Department under presidents of



Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks at the Department of Justice, Aug. 11, 2023, in Washington.

both political parties has declined to prosecute in similar circumstances when the president has claimed executive privilege.

Accordingly, the department "will not bring the congressional contempt citation before a grand jury or take any other action to prosecute the Attorney General," Uriarte said in the letter to Johnson. The letter

did not specify who in Justice Department made the decision.

Republicans were incensed when special counsel Robert Hur declined to prosecute Biden over his handling of classified documents and quickly opened an investigation.

GOP lawmakers led by Reps. Jim Jordan and James Comer sent a sub-

poena for audio of Hur's interviews with Biden, but the Justice Department only turned over some of the records, leaving out audio of the interview with the president.

Republicans have accused the White House of suppressing the tape because they say the president is afraid to have voters hear it during an election year.

A transcript of the Hur interview showed Biden struggling to recall some dates and occasionally confusing some details something longtime aides say he's done for years in both public and private but otherwise showing deep recall in other areas. Biden and his aides are particularly sensitive to questions about his age. At 81, he's the oldest-ever president, and he's seeking another four-year term.

The attorney general has said the Justice Department has gone to extraordinary lengths to provide information to the lawmakers about Hur's investigation. However, Garland has said releasing the audio could jeopardize future sensitive investigations because witnesses might be less likely to cooperate if they know their interviews might become public.

In a letter last month detailing Biden's decision to assert executive privilege, White House counsel Ed Siskel accused Republicans of seeking the recordings so they can "chop them up" and distort them to attack the president. □

Army Corps finds soil contaminated under some St. Louis-area homes, but no health risk

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers has determined that soil is contaminated beneath some suburban St. Louis homes near a creek where nuclear waste was dumped decades ago, but the contamination isn't enough to pose a health risk.

Soil beneath six homes at the Cades Cove subdivision in Florissant "will not need to be remediated," Robin Parks, a lead engineer for the St. Louis District of the Corps, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Thursday. "That's how we say something is clean, in simple terms."

The Corps announced in March it was taking soil samples from the properties that sit near Coldwater Creek, a meandering waterway contaminated after nuclear waste was dumped there in the 1960s. The decision was made after contamination was found in the homes' backyards, but not the front yards, the Corps said at the time.

The Corps said that when the Cades Cove subdivision was being built more than 30 years ago, a portion of the creek was covered in fill dirt. The latest testing sought to determine

if that fill dirt was contaminated.

Gina McNabb, a Cades Cove resident whose yard was tested, said the decision leaves her uncertain about what to do next. She said she is nervous about disturbing the contamination that's currently underground, if it could potentially go airborne. At the same time, she's uncomfortable just leaving it in place.

"Now that we know it's there, it does pose a concern," she said.

Uranium processing in the St. Louis area played a pivotal role in developing the nuclear weapons that

helped bring an end to World War II and provided a key defense during the

Cold War. But the region is still dealing with contamination at several sites. □



Coldwater Creek flows April 7, 2023, in Florissant, Mo.

Associated Press

Massachusetts on verge of becoming second-to-last state to outlaw 'revenge porn'

By STEVE LeBLANC
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A bill aimed at outlawing "revenge porn" has been approved by lawmakers in the Massachusetts House and Senate and shipped to Democratic Gov. Maura Healey, a move advocates say was long overdue.

If signed by Healey, the bill which bars the sharing of explicit images or videos without the consent of those depicted in the videos would leave South Carolina as the only state not to have a law specifically banning revenge porn. Supporters say the bill, which landed on Healey's desk Thursday, would align Massachusetts with the other 48 states that have clear prohibitions on disseminating sexually explicit images and videos without the subject's consent. It is a form of abuse that advocates say has grown increasingly common in the digital age, subjecting people to social and emotional harm often inflicted by former romantic partners.

The bill would make disseminating nude or partially nude photos of another



The Massachusetts Statehouse is seen, Jan. 2, 2019, in Boston.

person without their permission criminal harassment. Offenders would face up to two and a half years in prison and a fine of \$10,000. On subsequent offenses, the punishment would increase to up to 10 years in prison and a fine of \$15,000. "No person's life should devolve into chaos because a private photo was shared without their permission, and no person should fear

coercion or be threatened with the sharing of such a photo," Senate President Karen Spilka said.

The bill explicitly states that even though a person might consent to the initial creation of an explicit image or video that doesn't mean they are also agreeing that it can be distributed without their additional consent in the future.

The advent of artificial in-

telligence and deepfake technology in the creation of revenge porn has added to the concerns of lawmakers. Supporters said the bill opens the door to legislation further addressing the implications of the emerging technology.

Karissa Hand, an aide to Healey, said the governor, who was previously the state's attorney general, "has long supported legis-

lation to ban revenge porn and hold accountable those who would engage in abusive, coercive and deeply harmful behavior" and looks forward to reviewing any legislation that reaches her desk.

The legislation establishes a definition for coercive control to account for non-physical forms of abuse such as isolation, threatening harm toward a family member or pet, controlling or monitoring activities, damaging property, publishing sensitive information, and repeated legal action. Advocates describe coercive control as a pattern of deliberate behavior by an abuser that substantially restricts another person's safety and autonomy.

By expanding the statute of limitation for domestic violence charges to 15 years, the bill would also give survivors a longer time to seek justice. Under current law, minors who possess, purchase or share explicit photos of themselves or other minors are charged with violating child sexual abuse image laws and are required to register as sex offenders. □

Associated Press

Vermont governor vetoes data privacy bill, saying state would be most hostile to businesses

By LISA RATHKE
Associated Press

Vermont's governor has vetoed a broad data privacy bill that would have been one of the strongest in the country to crack down on companies' use of online personal data by letting consumers file civil lawsuits against companies that break certain privacy rules. Republican Gov. Phil Scott said in his veto message late Thursday that the legislation would have made Vermont "a national outlier and more hostile than any other state to many businesses and non-profits."

"I appreciate this provision is narrow in its impact, but

it will still negatively impact mid-sized employers, and is generating significant fear and concern among many small businesses," he wrote. The legislation would have prohibited the sale of sensitive data, such as social security and driver's license numbers, as well as financial information and health data. It also would have set meaningful limits on the amount of personal data that companies can collect and use, according to the nonprofit Electronic Privacy Information Center based in Washington, D.C. The Democrat-controlled Legislature plans to override the governor's veto

when it meets for a special session on Monday. The bill passed 139-3 in the House and a flurry of amendments were made in the final days of the session.

"Our collective efforts brought forth legislation that not only reflects our commitment to consumer protection from scams and identity theft but also sets a standard for the nation," House Speaker Jill Krowinski, a Democrat, said in a statement. "It is unfortunate that so much misinformation has been spread about this bill, but we know that Big Tech and their deep pockets are fearful of no longer having unrestricted access to Ver-

monsters' personal information."

More than a dozen states have comprehensive data privacy laws. When the Vermont legislature passed

the bill, Caitriona Fitzgerald, deputy director of EPIC, said the legislation was "among the strongest, if not the strongest" in the country. □



A woman types on a keyboard in New York, Oct. 8, 2019.

Associated Press

Some Mexican shelters see crowding south of the border as Biden's asylum ban takes hold

By **VALERIE GONZALEZ**

Associated Press

MATAMOROS, Mexico (AP)

— Some shelters south of the U.S. border are caring for many more migrants now that the Biden administration stopped considering most asylum requests, while others have yet to see much of a change.

The impact appears uneven more than a week after the temporary suspension took effect. Shelters south of Texas and California have plenty of space, while as many as 500 deportations from Arizona each day are straining shelters in Mexico's Sonora state, their directors say.

"We're having to turn people away because we can't, we don't have the room for all the people who need shelter," said Joanna Williams, executive director of Kino Border Initiative, which can take in 100 people at a time.

About 120 are in San Juan Bosco shelter in Nogales, across the border from the Arizona city with the same name, up from about 40 before the policy change,



Hugo López of Al Otro Lado advocacy group hands a pamphlet to Antonio Cortes, a Mexican man who was deported from the U.S. to Tijuana, Mexico, on June 11, 2024.

Associated Press

according to its director, Juan Francisco Loureiro.

"We have had a quite remarkable increase," Loureiro said Thursday. Most are Mexican, including families as well as adults. Mexico also agreed to accept de-

portees from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela. A shelter in Agua Prieta, a remote town bordering Douglas, Arizona, also began receiving more Mexican men, women and children last weekend 40 on

Sunday, more than 50 on Monday and then about 30 a day. Like those sent to Nogales, most had entered the U.S. farther west, along the Arizona-California state line, according to Perla del Angel, a worker at the Exo-

dus Migrant Attention Center.

But in Tijuana, directors of four large shelters said this week that they haven't received a single migrant deported since the asylum ban took effect. Al Otro Lado, a migrant advocacy group, consulted only seven migrants on the first full day operating an information booth at the main crossing where migrants are deported from San Diego. "What there is right now is a lot of uncertainty," said Paulina Olvera, president of Espacio Migrante, who houses up to 40 people traveling in families, predominantly from Mexico, and has others sleeping on the sidewalk outside. "So far what we've seen is the rumors and the mental health impact on people. We haven't seen returns yet." Biden administration officials said last week that thousands have been deported since the new rule took effect on July 5, suspending asylum whenever arrests for illegal crossings hit a trigger of 2,500 in a single day. □

Cambodia burns \$70 million of seized illegal drugs while urging public education about their danger

By **SOPHENG CHEANG**

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)

— Cambodian authorities on Friday destroyed more than seven tons of illicit drugs and the ingredients for them, as a drug-fighting official said educating people about their danger is the best way of combating the illegal trade.

Some 4.1 tons of the destroyed items were drugs including heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, ecstasy and ketamine that had been confiscated from traffickers across the country, the National Authority for Combating Drugs said. The remaining 3.2 tons were various chemicals and other ingredients used to produce illegal drugs, it said.

Gen. Meas Virith, secretary general of the drug-fighting agency, said the drugs that were burned in a brick kiln at a ceremony on the outskirts of the capital, Phnom Penh, had an estimated wholesale value of \$22.7 million and a street value of nearly \$70 million. Had they not been seized, they could have harmed millions of people, he said.

He said the best way now to fight illegal drugs is by educating Cambodians from all walks of life about the dangers they pose. To teach people not to use or traffic illicit drugs is better than just cracking down on those criminally involved, he said.

"As you are aware, if we use only crackdown measures, then we need to do

so repeatedly. Let's say this year we burn these things, and next year we will do it again," he said. "But if we invest in drug education, awareness and protection, then drug activities would be reduced."

Meas Virith said the authorities pursued more than 3,800 drug-related cases in the first five months of this year, arresting more than 10,000 people, including foreigners.

The production and trafficking of synthetic drugs, especially methamphetamine, are at record highs in Southeast Asia and pose a major threat to its societies, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

"Seizures of crystal methamphetamine have in-

creased year-by-year in Cambodia for the seventh year in a row, reaching over 1.4 tons in 2023, showing the ongoing expansion

of the market for the drug in the country," the U.N. agency said in a report last month. □



Cambodian officers burn drugs inside a brick kiln during a drug destruction ceremony to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, outside Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Friday, June 14, 2024.

Associated Press

Sudan tops UN envoy's concerns about children caught in conflicts, with Congo and Haiti next

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The United Nations envoy charged with reporting on violations against children in conflicts around the world said Thursday that first and foremost she is worried about what's happening to youngsters in war-torn Sudan, followed by Congo and Haiti.

Virginia Gamba told a news conference officially launching the secretary-general's annual report and U.N. blacklist of violators that she is also very worried about children caught in Myanmar's civil war and the spillover into neighboring Bangladesh.

"For the future, on the horizon," she said, "I'm worried about Somalia and Afghanistan."

The report for the first time put both Israeli forces and Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad militants on the blacklist for violating children's rights in 2023 during Hamas' Oct. 7 surprise invasion of southern Israel and its massive military retaliation in Gaza that is ongoing.

The U.N. also kept the Russian armed forces and affili-



United Nation's special representative for children and armed conflict, Virginia Gamba, speaks during a press conference, in Yangon, Myanmar, Tuesday, May 29, 2018, her first visit to the country.

Associated Press

ated armed groups on the blacklist for a second year over their killing and maiming of Ukrainian children and attacks on schools and hospitals in 2023.

Gamba said she remains very concerned about the plight of children in the wars in Ukraine and in Gaza, as well as in the West

Bank and Jerusalem.

"But the ones that I'm really worried about for, let's say, the rest of this year and beginning of next year, are first and foremost Sudan, particularly Darfur, and Chad because it is expanding," she said.

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023, when

long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital Khartoum and spread to other regions including Darfur, which became synonymous with genocide and war crimes two decades ago. The U.N. says over 14,000 people have been killed and

33,000 injured.

Gamba said their "ferocious armed struggle" led to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces being put on the blacklist for killing and maiming, raping and committing other acts of sexual violence, as well as attacking schools and hospitals.

The Sudanese Armed Forces were listed for killing and injuring children and attacking schools and hospitals. In Congo, the 13,500-strong U.N. peacekeeping force is in the process of withdrawing by the end of December, leaving rebel groups and government forces fighting in its mineral-rich east where security has deteriorated.

Gamba said "massive sexual violence" against children is taking place and "is going to swell." The new report has Congo's armed forces and 16 armed groups fighting in the country on the U.N. blacklist for violating children's rights. When the U.N. withdrawal is completed, Gamba said, "I lose my eyes."

Though monitoring of abuses will continue, it won't be the same level of engagement, she said. □

Chinese journalist who promoted #MeToo movement sentenced to 5 years in prison



In this photo released by Free Huang Xueqin & Wang Jianbing, Chinese journalist Huang Xueqin holds up a #METOO sign for a photo in Singapore in Sept. 2017.

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Supporters say a Chinese journalist who promoted women's rights as part of the country's nascent #MeToo movement has been sentenced to five years in prison on charges of incitement to subvert state authority, almost three years after she and an activist were detained.

The verdict provided to The Associated Press stated that Huang Xueqin would also face a fine of 100,000 yuan (\$14,000), underscoring the ruling Communist Party's intolerance of any activism outside its control in a system whose upper echelons are dominated by men.

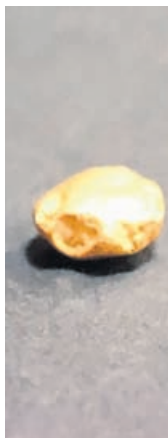
China's #MeToo movement flourished briefly before being snuffed out by the government. China often silences activists by holding them incommunicado for a long time and then sentencing them to prison.

Huang's release date was listed as Sept. 18, 2026, accounting for her earlier detention. Co-defendant Wang Jianbing was sentenced to three years and six months on the same charge. Wang is more known for his labor rights activity but also helped women report sexual harassment.

Huang and Wang's cases appear to have become intertwined as part of the most recent wave of a general crackdown on rights advocates, a trend that predates the #MeToo movement and includes previous incidents such as the 2015 detentions of women distributing pamphlets against sexual harassment on public transport.

Working as a freelance journalist, Huang helped spark China's first #MeToo case in 2018 when she publicized allegations of sexual harassment made by a graduate student against her Ph.D. supervisor at one of China's most prestigious universities. □

In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

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Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

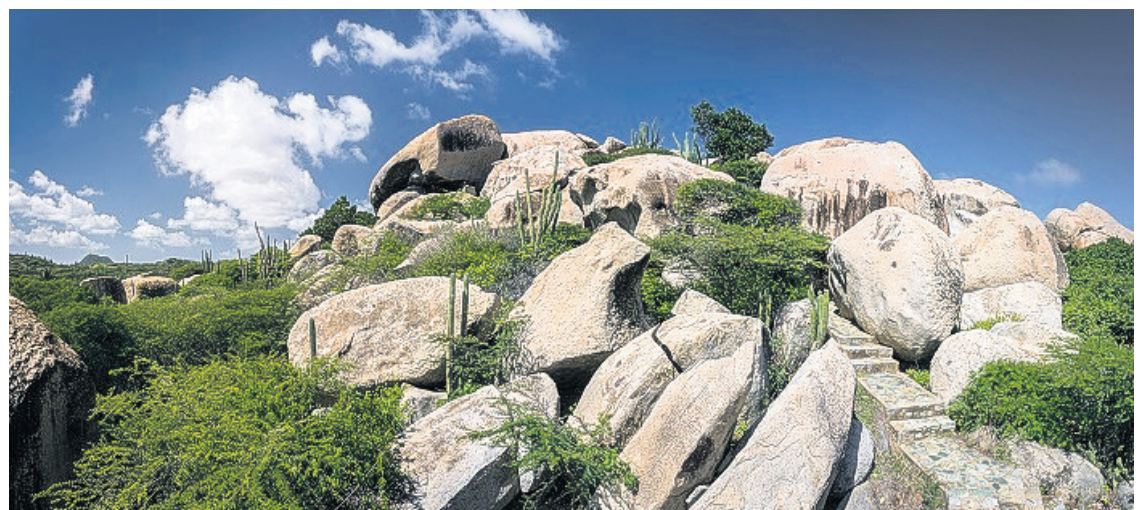
Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that



Adobe Stock | #189290712

lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the



quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of

the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way! □

***Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!**

Both sites are open free to



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June 21: Experience the ACF full moon hike!

(Oranjestad)—Every month when the moon is full, the Aruba Conservation Foundation (previously known as the Aruba National Park Foundation, FPNA) hosts its monthly full moon hike for both members and non-members. For this month, they are offering yet another chance to join in on the fun, and take advantage of seeing the beautiful Aruban night sky!

For this month's full moon event, the hike will start at the Arikok Visitor Center, where participants will be led through Northern Loop, Sero Cabay, Connection Road, Miralamar and Visitor Center. With the moon illuminating your way, you can have a chance to see a few constellations and bright stars

shining in the night sky, while also enjoying the cool night breeze and the beautiful sound of waves crashing on the rocky shore lines. Participants are expected to meet at the Visitor Center at 6:30 pm this Friday, June 21st. The journey will cover 4.4 km/2.7 miles and is estimated to end around 9pm. Non-resident participants can enjoy this night with an entree fee of 30 dollars. If you wish to participate, you can sign up for the event through this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/XCb-Je7ZS2m>, or contact the FNPA at (297) 585 1234. □

You can also e-mail, info@acf.aw for more info or questions. Spots are limited, so don't wait!



The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various



renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its

iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make “pan bati”

(Oranjestad)—If you’re ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here’s how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl

first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moister is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top!☐



Aruba beyond beaches Episode CXXXII -132

Every week we share the most interesting and insightful articles about Aruba as a destination to explore and conserve. Discover amazing and informative stories to enrich your knowledge and experience. There is so much to admire on this tiny island such as the variety of the landscape and its differences which is the result of the weather resistance of different types of rocks.

We can differentiate three basic geological formations. One is a hilly part, second by an undulating part and a third part consisting of limestone which embraces these two zones mentioned before and forming also the coast line. The landscape of Sta. Cruz, Tanki Flip, Noord area and in the south of Savaneta is mostly flat to slightly undulating with quartz diorite (QD) boulders in it. This rock is has a gray color with dark and light speckled, and is relatively hard. These are many areas with boulders and small or large patches of sand and vegetation. The Hooiberg elevates to 166 m, a conical-shaped hill west of Santa Cruz and is situated in the middle of



the typical QD landscape. The main component of this hill is of volcanic formation called Hooibergite. Other geological phenomena in the QD landscape are the small hills at the north coast

and areas of our by law protected dunes prohibiting the incursion of all types of motorized vehicles. A curious fact is that our dunes where manly formed by the feeding habits of

various types of parrot-fish who bites of the living coral to extract the animal juices inside, while spit out the crushed calcium in to a fine sand, that the wind on its part accumulates as dunes behind our north coast beaches.

The dunes are well drained, often dry, and are composed also of calcium carbonate from eroded sea-shells. Decomposing sea algae, brought in by stormy weather, adds nutrients to allow pioneer species to colonize them.

In these white dunes and desert landscape we find some hardy flora species that are perfectly adapted to the aridity of the soil, the mobility of the loose sandy

substrate, the low nutrients and the salinity, elements ideal to sustain the halophyte plant communities that survive in these extreme soil conditions of high saline content.

Some of these pioneering species are the “Sesuvium portulacastrum” or “Tobacco di piscado” (fishermans tabaco), in our native Papiamentu, the “cocorobana” “Tournefortia gnaphalodes” also known by the name of “sea lavender” and sea grapes, Cocoloba uvifera. The predominant fauna of these coastal dunes are insects such as bees, wasps and ants, beetles, spider flies, sea birds and also lizards.

As we move away from the sea, the intensity of the wind, the salt spray and the mobility of the substrate are reduced. This makes the environmental conditions less extreme, which is used by a greater number of species.



To get to know a little more regarding Aruba’s and its cultural origins, etc. We highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session. A mind opening revelation and entertaining island experience. WhatsApp + 297 5922702 or mail etnianativa03@gmail.com our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.☐



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was of-

ficially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also

known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found



ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding

area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □

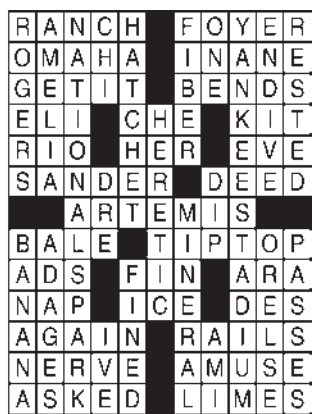


CROSSWORD

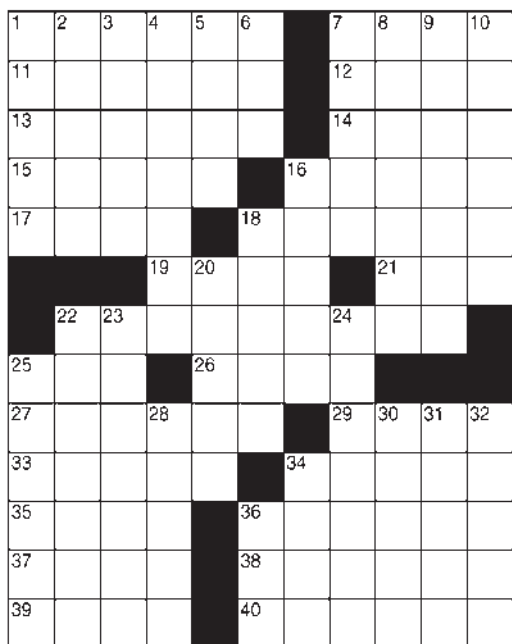
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 36 NASA
 - 1 Reef vehicle materials
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 - 4 Japanese "thanks"
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 - 8 Role for Ford
 - 9 Shake-speare's merchant
 - 10 Gazed
 - 16 Dardh —
 - 18 Yard tools
 - 20 Earthy shade
 - 22 Mediterra-nean wind
 - 23 Forcible ejection
 - 24 Capitol feature
 - 25 Sunak's group
 - 28 Wyo-ming's — Range
 - 30 Loosened
 - 31 Carell of movies
 - 32 Writer Blixen
 - 34 Tarzan's love
 - 36 Went ahead



Yesterday's answer



3-23

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

F Z N O M R T M U K W N V I

B T W G I T N , U W S W E T W P A

U T N T P T M P F P T I F Z N .

— N W O Q I B W O A F T K T N U F P

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HAVE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS THAT WHEN ONE'S MIND IS MADE UP, THIS DIMINISHES FEAR. — ROSA PARKS

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - June 25 2024

| | | | ARR | DEPT | BERTH | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|--|
| SAT | 01 | NORWEGIAN JADE | 10.00 | 20.00 | C | 1 | |
| THU | 06 | CELEBRITY BEYOND | 08.00 | 21.00 | C | 1 | |
| TUE | 11 | SILVER SHADOW | 08.00 | 23.00 | B | 1 | |
| | | ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS | 08.00 | 20.00 | C | 1 | |
| | | CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS | 13.00 | 23.00 | I | 1 | |
| WED | 12 | CARNIVAL HORIZON | 07.00 | 15.00 | B | 1 | |
| | | RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS | 09.00 | 21.00 | C | 1 | |
| TUE | 18 | CELEBRITY BEYOND | 08.00 | 21.00 | B | 1 | |
| | | CARNIVAL CELEBRATION | 08.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 | |
| | | CARNIVAL VISTA | 13.00 | 23.00 | I | 1 | |
| TUE | 25 | CARNIVAL HORIZON | 09.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 | |

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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'Tis the season for swimming and bacteria alerts in lakes, rivers

By KATHY McCORMACK
and NICK PERRY

Associated Press

TUFTONBORO, N.H. (AP)

— With summer about to start, many people flocking to their favorite swimming holes may also want to read up on bacteria warnings.

During the busy Memorial Day weekend and shortly afterward, at least 20 people, most of them children, reported E. coli infections after they swam in Lake Anna, a popular recreational destination in central Virginia. Nine of those people were hospitalized. An additional 10 cases are under investigation.

In Massachusetts, 22 beaches were closed across the state as of Friday morning. "Bacteria exceedance" accounted for more than half of the shutdowns. On the West Coast, high bacteria levels shut down three beaches in Seattle.

Here's what to know about the most common concerns.

E. coli bacteria

E.coli bacteria normally live in the intestines of healthy people and animals. Most strains are harmless, cause relatively brief diarrhea, and most people recover without much incident, according to the Mayo Clinic. But small doses of some strains including just a mouthful of contaminated water can cause a range of conditions, including urinary tract infection, cystitis, intestinal infection and vomiting, with the worst cases leading to life-threatening blood poisoning.

Cyanobacteria

Cyanobacteria also referred to as blue-green algae are plant-like organisms that live in water. They can quickly grow out of control, or "bloom," and some produce toxins that make people and animals sick, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They can look like foam, scum, mats,



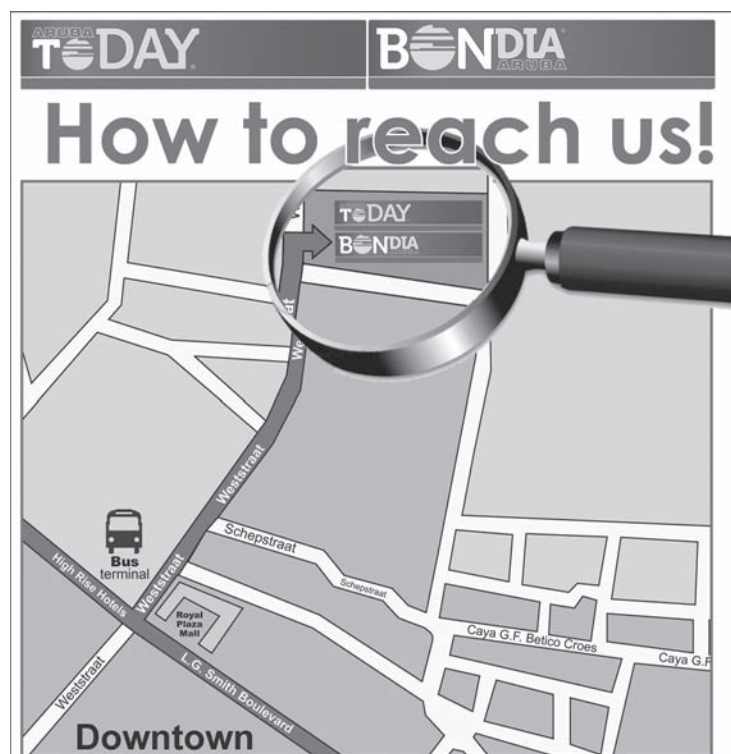
A sign warns visitors at 19 Mile Beach along Lake Winnepesaukee, Friday, June 14, 2024, in Tuftonboro N.H., of an algae bloom.
Associated Press

or paint on the surface of the water. They can also grow underneath the water.

"The things that are causing blooms are the excessive nutrients that are flowing into our surface waters through storm water, fertilizers, pet waste, septic systems. That, coupled with the increased sunlight and heat, is just the perfect recipe for cyanobacteria,"

said David Neils, the chief aquatic biologist with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

He was checking out the blooms in Tuftonboro, along Lake Winnepesaukee, the state's largest lake. State officials warned people not to swim there and in Wolfeboro because of cyanobacteria readings. □



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Imsan 24 hours
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Eagle : Tel. 587 9011

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

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EMERGENCY

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Police | 100 |
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| Sta. Cruz | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

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| Prof. Taxi | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv. | 280 2828 |

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| | |
|-------------------|----------|
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| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue | 588 2244 |
| Surinam | 582 7896 |

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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'Tuesday,' with Julia Louis-Dreyfus, is strange, emotional and fiercely original

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Death has taken many forms in cinema. It's been Bengt Ekerot. Ian McKellen. John Cleese. Even Brad Pitt with blonde highlights. But in "Tuesday," filmmaker Daina O. Pusić's bold, fantastical and affecting debut, death looks like a lot like a macaw that's seen better days.

Covered in a thick layer of grime and oil with patches of feathers missing, "Tuesday's" Death can be as big as a room or as small as an ear canal. Its booming, gravelly voice (that of actor Arinzé Kene) sounds ancient and otherworldly. And it all adds up to something profoundly unsettling. Not exactly a comforting welcome into the afterlife, or whatever comes next.

"Tuesday," expanding nationwide Friday, is about death, and acceptance, between a mother and her dying daughter. But this is no Hallmark affair fitting for a sympathy card. It is prickly, wry, somewhat unsentimental, a bit gritty and awfully painful at times. Or maybe it's just uniquely British. And you may just find yourself in a puddle of your own tears as a result.

Now, in terms of cinematic emotional blackmail, a parent coming to terms



This image released by A24 shows Julia Louis-Dreyfus in a scene from "Tuesday."

Associated Press

with a child's imminent death is pretty much in the red zone. That sort of setup could produce involuntary tears from an audience regardless of the level of talent involved. Thankfully for us, there is immense creativity and vision both in front of and behind the camera, including not just the writer-director but the special effects experts responsible for Death as well as the haunting and innovative sound design.

Lola Petticrew plays the titular Tuesday, a teen with a "Breathless" pixie cut, a love of jokes and rap music

and a terminal illness that has bound her to an oxygen tank and the use of a wheelchair. Her mother, Zora (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), has entirely disconnected from the situation. She tiptoes around the house waiting for the nurse, Billie (a lovely Leah Harvey), to do the caretaking. She stays out all day, pawning household items for cash to pay for the care, ignoring Tuesday's calls and occasionally falling asleep on park benches. At home, she doesn't want to talk to Tuesday about anything real the death, her job,

their precarious financial position it's all been deeply repressed and compartmentalized and is making everyone crazy.

The day we meet Zora and Tuesday is the day Death arrives. Billie has left Tuesday on the patio for just a minute to start a bath. All of a sudden, the girl who was just joking around is having an episode, gasping for air, when the macaw lands by her side. Death is actually the first character introduced, in an unnerving series of deaths setting an ominous tone that will loom throughout. Some are

ready to go, begging for relief. Some are just scared. And all have the same outcome once he's put his wing around them.

Tuesday, however, decides to tell a joke. This disarms Death (who bursts out laughing) and suddenly they're in conversation together. She gives him a bath, puts on some music and asks a favor: She'd like to say goodbye to her mom first. Death obliges.

Of course the story both is and isn't that simple. "Tuesday" becomes some strange combination of body horror, fairy tale, domestic drama and apocalypse thriller. It is weird and transfixing never predictable and never boring. Louis-Dreyfus is both chilling and deeply empathetic as this woman who has been paralyzed by grief even before it's happened. She seems to be preparing for her own death in a way, unable and unwilling to process a life without her daughter who, at this point, doesn't even realize that her mother still loves her. Petticrew holds their own, going head-to-head with Louis-Dreyfus at her cruellest, exhibiting a wisdom beyond their years and fitting of a person who's had to grow up and face death far too early. □

Hot dog-eating champs Joey Chestnut and Takeru Kobayashi will go head-to head in a Netflix special



Joey Chestnut, defending champion of the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, left, works to outpace former champion Takeru Kobayashi, right, July 4, 2009, in New York.

Associated Press

By KAITLYN HUAMANI
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After organizers for Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog-eating contest said Joey Chestnut wouldn't compete this year because of a deal with a rival brand, Netflix swiftly announced a new hot dog-eating competition that will feature Chestnut and his "fiercest rival."

Chestnut, a 16-time hot dog-eating champion, will face off with his frequent Nathan's competitor, Takeru Kobayashi, in a live

Netflix special on Sept. 2, the streamer announced Wednesday.

The contest, titled "Chestnut vs. Kobayashi: Unfinished Beef," will feature the two chowing down on all-beef hot dogs, likely in a nod to reports that Chestnut's rival brand deal is with Impossible Foods, which makes plant-based hot dogs.

Major League Eating, the organization that oversees the Nathan's contest, announced Tuesday that Chestnut's deal was an "exclusivity" issue, saying

that it was his decision to step back from the competition he has participated in since 2005.

"We love him.

The fans love him," said George Shea, a Major League Eating event organizer, adding: "He made the choice."

Chestnut disputed that he made the choice, saying on the social platform X that Nathan's and Major League Eating made the decision, adding that it would "deprive fans of the holiday's usual joy and entertainment." □

Florida Panthers are calm and businesslike on the verge of winning the Stanley Cup in a sweep

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)

— One win away from a championship, it feels like the Florida Panthers are treating Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final like Game 44 of the regular season.

“Our whole mindset right now is recovering and getting prepared for the next game,” forward Sam Bennett said after beating the Edmonton Oilers in Game 3 to move to the verge of a sweep. “I don’t think anyone can really look ahead.”

With coach Paul Maurice and captain Aleksander Barkov setting the tone, the Panthers are looking ahead only to Game 4 on the road Saturday night as the next challenge in their season-long journey. They can bring home the Cup for the first time in franchise history but are approaching the opportunity in the same businesslike manner they’ve had all playoffs.

“We’ve done such a good job of having that one-game, simple mindset: Win your first period, win your first few shifts,” winger Matthew Tkachuk said Friday. “Just a really calm, kind of chill and relaxed group today. Use that to our advantage.”

One major advantage is being in the final for a



Florida Panthers' Vladimir Tarasenko (10) celebrates his goal with teammate Eetu Luostarinen (27) as Edmonton Oilers' Cody Ceci (5) reacts during the second period in Game 3 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals, Thursday, June 13, 2024, in Edmonton, Alberta.

Associated Press

second consecutive time, though this series is the opposite for Florida after injuries piled up and the gas ran out last year against Vegas. The core group also knows what it's like to be facing elimination this late in the playoffs, seeing the Golden Knights close it out in their first chance in 2023. Maurice does not believe finishing any series, especially the final, is not about killer instinct, but he wants the Panthers to acknowledge it's an elimination

game and a situation most of his players and staff have never been in before.

“We go back to what we know,” Maurice said. “There’s nothing new to what we’re going to do. The puck’s going to drop, it’s going to be the exact same sport, so there’s nothing new here. The context is different.”

The context is being up 3-0 in the series despite arguably being outplayed in two of the three games. They have the better goal-

tender in Sergei Bobrovsky, who has stopped 82 of 86 shots and whose .953 save percentage ranks in the top 10 in a final in NHL history, and they have scored on their opportunities while the Oilers have not.

Edmonton coach Kris Knoblauch thinks his players not finishing has been the difference in the series, pointing to analytics that show they are getting more quality scoring chances than in any of the first three rounds. “It’s just being able to put

the puck in the net, which is obviously a very big part of the game,” Knoblauch said. The Oilers have players who were on the two most recent teams to fall behind in the Cup final: Corey Perry with Montreal in 2021 and Adam Henrique with New Jersey in 2012. Each of those teams avoided being swept, and the Devils even forced a Game 6 with similar coast-to-coast back and forth travel as this series.

“When everybody writes you off, you believe in the group in here,” said Henrique, who scored the Game 4-winning goal 12 years ago. “It’s certainly a big hill to climb, but you don’t look at the whole picture. You look at taking those first couple steps, get that first one and go from there. It’s a challenge that we’re certainly up to.”

The league has not had a 4-0 Stanley Cup Final since Detroit swept Washington in 1998 to go back to back. The last time a team erased a 3-0 deficit to win the final was the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1942.

Perry, the first player to reach the final with five different organizations, echoed a lot of teammates’ observations that the Oilers think they have earned better than a 3-0 series deficit. □

Conor McGregor out of UFC 303 because of an undisclosed injury

By **MARK ANDERSON**

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Conor McGregor, long the face of the UFC, is injured and out of the upcoming pay-per-view event June 29 in Las Vegas that he was scheduled to headline. Organization President Dana White announced the change Thursday night on X, saying light heavyweight champion Alex Pereira will face top-ranked challenger Jiri Prochazka in UFC 303.

McGregor was scheduled to fight Michael Chandler, the sixth-ranked lightweight challenger, but the first indication that bout was in trouble was when his news conference June 3 in Dublin was abruptly canceled. No immediate explanation was provided. White didn’t elaborate on the nature of McGregor’s injury.

Losing McGregor, who hasn’t competed inside the octagon in three years, is quite a blow to the UFC. At 35, he is past his prime, but remains a strong attraction for gate and pay-per-view sales.

The UFC is at a crossroads, with stars such as McGregor, Jon Jones and Amanda Nunes either near the end of their careers or having already retired. There is a group of younger fighters still building their fan bases that the UFC is counting on to lead the next generation. □



Conor McGregor prepares to fight Dustin Poirier in a UFC 264 lightweight mixed martial arts bout July 10, 2021, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

DeChambeau in the mix at another major and shares early 36-hole US Open lead with Detry

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

PINEHURST, N.C. (AP) —

Bryson DeChambeau was in contention again in a major, this time using his putter more than his power Friday to get through a roller-coaster day at Pinehurst No. 2 for a 1-under 69 to share the early 36-hole lead in the U.S. Open with Thomas Detry.

Rory McIlroy couldn't make a putt he did chip in for par and scratched out a 72 to remain very much in the mix as the toughest test in golf added another element. The heat index was pushing 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) by mid-afternoon with Patrick Cantlay and Ludvig Aberg trying to stay in front and Tiger Woods hoping to make the cut and stick around for two more days.

Top-ranked Scottie Scheffler had his first round without a birdie in just over two years, a 74 that left him doubtful of making the cut. All that was giving him hope was a course that was relentless as ever with Donald Ross greens that resemble upside-down



Bryson DeChambeau lines up a putt on the first hole during the second round of the U.S. Open golf tournament Friday, June 14, 2024, in Pinehurst, N.C.

Associated Press

saucers, sandy landscapes instead of rough and a premium on par.

DeChambeau was all over the place three times following a birdie with a bogey, saving plenty of pars with putts in the 5-foot range and finishing on a high note with a wedge into tap-in range for birdie

on the 18th.

"All in all, was very happy with how I stayed patient, gave myself good opportunities when they mattered, and I made a lot of clutch putts coming in," he said.

Detry was the first player to reach 6 under at any point. Cantlay and Aberg later matched that early in

their afternoon rounds until dropping shots on the sixth and eighth holes toward the end of his round.

They set the target at 4-under 136. DeChambeau had a hunch that score to par might end up being the winner this week for the afternoon wave that faced the worst of the heat.

Both are coming off good performances in the majors.

Detry tied for fourth at the PGA Championship last month, a result that assures his first trip to the Masters next year. The 34-year-old Belgian, who played his college golf at Illinois, has yet to win on a main tour around the world. That looks to be a matter of time.

"I always tend to do better at courses where pars gain on the field. I feel like this week, you make a par, you gain on the field, keep moving on. I always seem to do better that way," Detry said. "It puts a little bit less pressure on my putting. When I have a birdie chance, it's like a bonus. I've done a great job of taking advantage of it today."

DeChambeau, who won the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in 2020, led after the first round of the Masters and tied for sixth. He lost by one shot at the PGA Championship when Xander Schauffele made a 6-footer for birdie on the final hole at Valhalla. □

Gibson dominates, Pagés homers as Cardinals beat Cubs 3-0

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) —

Kyle Gibson pitched two-hit ball over seven innings, Pedro Pagés broke a scoreless tie when he led off the eighth

with his first career homer and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs 3-0 on Friday.

Pagés, who had just three hits in 28 major league at-bats, gave the Cardinals

the lead with a drive to the left-field basket against reliever Hayden Wesneski (2-4). The 25-year-old Venezuelan pointed toward the sky crossing home plate.

Michael Busch singled leading off the bottom half against Ryan Fernandez.

Pinch runner Pete Crow-Armstrong stole second and went to third on a ground out but he was thrown out at home by second baseman Nolan Gorman trying to score on Miguel Amaya's one-out ground ball. JoJo Romero retired pinch hitter Patrick Wisdom on a fly to the left-field corner that Brendan Donovan caught just in front of the ivy.

The Cardinals scored two more runs in the ninth. Iván Herrera blooped an RBI

double off a lunging second baseman Nico Hoerner's glove and Dylan Carlson drove him in with a single.

Cardinals closer Ryan Helsley retired the first two batters in the ninth before walking Seiya Suzuki and Ian Happ. He then struck out Hoerner for his major league-leading 23rd save in 24 chances.

Gibson (5-2) made it look easy, striking out six and walking one.

The Cubs lost for the 15th time in 21 games.

Starter Jordan Wicks exited in the second inning because of discomfort in his right oblique. The left-hander walked off the field accompanied by a trainer after giving up a two-out single to Carlson. Kyle Hen-

dricks came in and retired Brendan Donovan on a grounder to second.

Wicks gave up two hits and struck out two in his first start and second appearance since returning from a strained left forearm. He was sidelined for six weeks. Hendricks pitched two-hit ball over 4 1/3 scoreless innings.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Cubs: RHP Ben Brown has a stress reaction in his neck, and the Cubs are still trying to figure out how much time he will miss. "It's a unique injury, a little bit of a rare injury for a pitcher," manager Craig Counsell said.

"We're just trying to just get some more opinions and figure out exactly kind of what's next for him." □



St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Masyn Winn, top, forces out Chicago Cubs' Mike Tauchman at second base during the first inning of a baseball game Friday, June 14, 2024, in Chicago.

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